

I.R.T. READY TO PAY \$4,000,000 TO-DAY

Company Starts New Year
by Meeting Obligations;
Economy Did It.

VENNER CONTRADICTED

Receivership Likely to Be
More Remote With Better
Outlook.

HEDLEY SEEMS HOPEFUL

Satisfied With Results of His
Efforts to Make Revenues
Cover Bills.

It was an auspicious opening of the new year for Frank Hedley, president and general manager of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company.

While celebrating the day quietly in his home at Riverdale, Mr. Hedley yesterday informed a reporter for THE NEW YORK HERALD that, despite pessimistic predictions to the contrary, the Interborough to-day will meet every penny of its semi-annual interest obligations, amounting to slightly less than \$4,000,000, on its outstanding first and refunding 5 per cent. bonds, payment of which falls due on the first business day of 1922.

Perhaps the most gratifying feature of this achievement from the viewpoint of the Interborough's general manager is that the corporation, which for months has stood on the brink of a possible receivership, is enabled to meet this obligation wholly from its operative revenues, which have been increasing materially under the practice of stringent economies, as Mr. Hedley testified recently in the course of his public examination by the Transit Commission. With the exception of current bills for materials and supplies these interest payments were the only heavy obligations of the company falling due at this time.

Makes No Prophecies.

While Mr. Hedley made no secret of the satisfaction he felt in thus being able to unhorse the prophets of evil at a critical moment he indulged in no predictions, roseate or otherwise, nor did he care to make any official statement of the earnings and financial position of the road later than that which was made fully a few weeks ago before the Transit Commission.

Mr. Hedley said there were too many uncertain factors directly ahead to warrant at this time any announcement further than the satisfaction he felt in having made good the hope and expectation he had voiced that the company would manage to meet its January 3 obligations. Among the factors he mentioned was the adjourned hearing of the bankruptcy petition, scheduled to come up again in Judge Julius M. Mayer's Federal Circuit Court on January 20, and which probably will be argued on January 30.

This is the action in which Clarence J. Venner, through his General Investment Company of Maine and his Continental Securities Company of New York, seeks to have a receiver appointed for the Interborough. Mr. Venner is the holder of a small block of the Interborough 7 per cent. notes which fell due last September. Since that time more than \$9 per cent. of the owners of these notes have assented to the extension plan and have deposited their holdings with J. P. Morgan & Co., the notes to be payable next September and meantime to bear 8 instead of 7 per cent. interest. The total issue of these notes aggregates \$38,144,460.

Venner Argument Forestalled.

Eljah N. Zolne, counsel for the Venner interests, on his numerous appearances in Judge Mayer's court repeatedly has stressed the argument that the Interborough not only had defaulted in the payment of its 7 per cent. notes last autumn but that there was little prospect that it would be able to meet the interest payments on its bonds due to-day.

Though the Venner interest has pressed persistently for a receivership on that ground, Judge Mayer consistently has maintained the attitude that a receivership would be disastrous to the public as well as to the corporation and that it was to be avoided if possible in the interest of public policy and the greatest good to the greatest number.

When the Interborough this morning pays from accumulated operating revenues the whole of the nearly \$4,000,000 interest due on its bonds it not only goes a long way to vindicate the action of the United States Court, bankers said yesterday, but it robs Mr. Venner and his counsel of one of the most useful of their stock arguments.

STARVING SEAMSTRESS PROMISED LIFE AID

Woman Phones to Hospital
About Mrs. Elliot.

Mrs. Catherine Elliot, a seamstress, who was removed to Bellevue Hospital Sunday on the verge of starvation, was reported as improving last night, and she will probably be able to leave the hospital within a few days.

So callers came to see the elderly woman yesterday, but a feminine voice called on the telephone, and after listening to a description of Mrs. Elliot declared she remembered her as a seamstress who was formerly in her employ. "You tell Mrs. Elliot I'll be down to-morrow to take care of her and I'll see she doesn't want for anything the rest of her life." The benefactor refused her name.

BANGS'S CONDITION GRAVE.

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 2.—John Kendrick Bangs, the author, who underwent an operation for intestinal trouble Saturday in the Atlantic City Hospital, was reported last night in a serious condition. He became ill suddenly Saturday morning in his home in Ventnor City, a suburb of Atlantic City. His family is in constant attendance.

PRICES realized on Swift & Company sales of carcasses here in New York City for week ending Saturday, December 31, on shipments sold out, ranged from 10 cents to 15 cents per pound, and averaged 12.87 cents per pound.—Ad.

2,000,000 IN S. LEAD SINGLE LIVES AFTER 50

Reports to Census Bureau Show 10 Per Cent. of Women
Marry Before 20; Half the Men Wait 10 Years
Longer—1920 Divorce Data Not Yet Ready.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.

Approximately 2,000,000 men and women more than 50 years of age are leading lives of single blessedness, according to reports of the Census Bureau.

Only 100,000, or 5 per cent. of the 2,000,000, will marry, the statistics also reveal. This revelation is based on census reports of other years, which show the law of averages on marriage, comes from a study of the Census Bureau marriage reports inspired by the existence of a club formed in Chicago to commit its members to matrimony. The club membership consists, according to reports, of 425 widows and widowers ranging in age from 64 to 88. All but 5 per cent. of the members of the club would remarry in ordinary circumstances, the census averages show.

Census officials have been compiling marriage statistics since 1890. The 1920 figures indicate that the average age of marriage is being raised throughout the United States. More than half of all women select mates before reaching the age of 25.

PASTORS APPROVE 'CLEAN PLAY' PLEA

Methodists Back the Rev. H.
D. Miller, Who Has Actor
Occupy Pulpit.

In urging his flock to go to theaters to see "clean, wholesome plays," and in saying the so-called ban of the church on theatergoing and dancing minister, the Rev. Harry Dwight Miller, pastor of the Riverside Place Methodist Church, Brooklyn, seems to have aroused no resentment among the majority of ministers of his denomination in New York city. In fact, most of those whose views were sounded yesterday approved his attitude.

It would appear that should members of the New York conference vote on the matter, the ban would be rescinded. This, however, could be done only by the national body, which has approached the subject several times but never has taken definite action toward removing the prohibition.

Mr. Miller spoke his mind Sunday evening following an address on "Clean Plays" by Harry Davenport, leading actor in "Thank You." Mr. Miller favored cooperation with producers of such plays, and with those who would rid the dance of gambling features. He objected to gambling in any form.

The Rev. Dr. J. Lewis Hartsock, pastor of St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Manhattan, agreed with Mr. Miller. He said he had been as far back as 1892 at a conference where the subject of clean plays was discussed. He said he was in favor of a rule of the church but a paragraph in the "chapter of advice" adopted in 1872 through the efforts of the late Rev. Aaron E. Ballard, founder of Ocean Grove, N. J. The chapter in Dr. Hartsock's opinion should be regarded as a recommendation rather than a law.

"During the last few years," he added, "people have claimed a right to think for themselves and there has been an emancipation of thought in the modern church. I look on these things as on most things; time makes them obsolete in part."

The Rev. J. E. Price, pastor of the Washington Heights Methodist Church, said he began as far back as 1892 at a conference to have the ban rescinded. He thought, then, as he does now, that Methodists ought to be allowed to see wholesome plays.

"I have no sympathy with a method prohibition," said Mr. Price. "A Methodist Conference has no right to go beyond the Scriptural principles, which leave the question of amendment to the individual conscience."

The Rev. S. W. Grafflin, pastor of the Park Avenue Methodist Church, said: "Methodism is in a corner up to a certain point. That is, what he says is perfectly true, but the trouble is some persons are certain to mistake advocacy of liberty for license. John Wesley put these questions up to the individual conscience, and that is where they belong. The church should be conservative, but it should be sanely conservative."

The Rev. Frederick Brown, Harris, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, deemed the paragraph forbidding plays and dancing as "a principle, not a club." He saw no reason for its removal, and arising from Mr. Miller's remarks.

The only indication of dissent came from the Rev. A. M. Morgan, pastor of the West Side Methodist Church, who said, in reference to Mr. Miller and Mr. Davenport, "I shouldn't care to take exactly the attitude of either man, so I think I shall not say anything."

Several Manhattan ministers noted that the so-called ban does not apply to opera or motion pictures, a fact which they regarded as inconsistent with the rest of the admonition.

In Brooklyn the Rev. Edward E. Wright, pastor of the Flatlands Methodist Church, declared himself in full agreement with Mr. Miller. He said: "I find the condition he speaks of—that young people are being driven from the church by its attitude toward amusement."

TRUCK KILLS 2 SISTERS THEIR NEPHEW UNHURT

Machine Runs Wild and
Leaps Onto Sidewalk.

WATERBURY, Conn., Jan. 2.—Miss Sarah McDonald and Miss Margaret McDonald, sisters, teachers in the local grammar school, died here this afternoon as a result of injuries received when a one-ton truck, running wild down Prospect street, ran up onto the sidewalk and struck them, throwing them to the ground and pinning them underneath. Miss McDonald, 4, a nephew, who was on the sidewalk with his aunt, escaped being hit.

Donato Danone, an employee of the Goldsmith Chainfast Company, driver of the truck, was held in \$5,000 pending an investigation into the accident by Coroner John T. Monzani.

FIRE IN SUBWAY STATION.

A small fire, which started in a switchbox on the upper level of the subway station of the Interborough West side branch at Chambers street last night, was extinguished before any damage had been done. Defective wiring is believed to have caused sparks to drop to a bundle of paper on the northbound local tracks below, setting it on fire.

Traffic was tied up for about ten minutes.

Wanamaker Saved FROM FIRE DANGER

Deputy Police Commissioner
and Merchant Overcome by
Smoke in His Home.

BUTLER MAKES RESCUES

Valuable Art Collection Is
Damaged Considerably by
Water and Soot.

Rodman Wanamaker, vice-president of the John Wanamaker department stores, Special Deputy Police Commissioner and Chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Reception of Distinguished Guests, was overcome early yesterday morning by smoke from a fire in the basement of his home, at 69 Washington place, and was rescued by his butler, Ernest Schmidt.

Mr. Wanamaker, who was asleep in a second floor room of his residence, was awakened by the smell of smoke about seven o'clock. When he opened his door he was greeted by a dense cloud of smoke which had boiled up through the dumb waiter shaft and other chimneys. Acting Chief Carlock thought that this would be found to be the case. Divorce seems to occur in almost exact proportions in each succeeding census, officials say.

Another point which the new census figures may clear up is the results of many so-called war marriages, many of which were believed to have been made in too great haste to insure domestic tranquility. The divorce statistics are expected to throw light on this question, which has been a matter of much controversy since the armistice. In England and France the divorce courts were flooded with suits for separations immediately after demobilization began and the service men began to return to their homes. In the United States a similar result will not be shown, it is believed, by the census reports.

HOME OF COUNTRY CLUB IS BURNED

Continued from First Page.

Kane said, were valued at between \$8,000 and \$10,000. He could not estimate the loss in paintings and other effects. The firemen were told the total loss would be about \$250,000.

Some of the members thought the fire was started by sparks from one of the chimneys. Acting Chief Carlock thought it started inside the roof and smoldered some time before it was detected.

The clubhouse lay in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx, between Fort Schuyler and Pelham. The property includes a polo field, upon which visiting British teams have practiced. Among members who were routed by the fire were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holden, Mrs. E. C. Potter, Mrs. George T. Adeo, wife of the president; Fred Bull, Mr. and Mrs. John Wolf, Mrs. Eugene Rosenquest, Mr. and Mrs. George Batcheller, Mr. and Mrs. Luigi Solari, Miss Dorothy Lorrain, Mrs. Herbert Rawlings, Miss Mary Rawlings, Miss Norma Bidwell and Paul Phelan.

BEDFORD GIRLS GET THE 'DIET CURE' AGAIN

Subjected to Discipline Once
Abandoned.

The practice of isolating women prisoners in Bedford Reformatory in Westchester and placing them on a restricted diet—the "bread and water cure"—against which so much outcry was made two years ago that a new superintendent was appointed—has been resumed by Major Amos T. Baker, present warden.

Major Baker admitted yesterday he has reestablished the custom of locking disturbers in cells in the disciplinary building that was supposed to have been closed forever by Mrs. Helen A. Cobb, the deposed superintendent. He said also that refractory girls are put on special diet, and that this form of punishment has been found necessary.

If not separated from the other inmates, Major Baker said, the trouble makers would incite the entire prison population to rebellion. Mrs. Cecilia Patten, a member of the State Prison Commission, in an official report, states: "There are nine girls in the disciplinary building. One is in a run-away and eight had 'smashed out.' They are not detained for any definite period, but are kept in this building until they are in a proper state of mind. They are permitted to exercise in the open air under the supervision of a matron, and a physician visits them daily."

Mrs. Patten praises the work of Major Baker and the vocational training given to the prisoners.

NO CLEW TO ACTRESS MISSING FROM SHIP

Mystery in Supposed Suicide
of Miss Montgomery.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—Further efforts are being made to-day by the police and officials of the company operating the steamship Yale to clear up the mystery of the supposed suicide at sea early New Year's Day of Betty Montgomery, an actress, while the vessel was bound here from Los Angeles.

The woman was last seen after midnight when she left a dance to retire. Mrs. W. M. Sheldon, a friend, who claimed to be on the same trip, went to call her before breakfast and found Miss Montgomery's stateroom had not been used. A search of the vessel proved fruitless and indications pointed to the possibility of suicide.

Evidence that Miss Montgomery had been in the care of Dr. W. C. Finch of Los Angeles was found in her belongings. A letter inscribed "Dear Howard" and with the notation "3:45 P. M. aboard ship" was found unfinished.

BOY'S LEG BLOWN OFF.

Harold Selber, 10, son of Mrs. Edward Selber, 411 East Fourteenth street, was playing yesterday afternoon with several companions around a bonfire at Fourteenth street and First avenue, when one of his friends threw a can of gasoline into the fire. An explosion blew off the boy's left leg. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

Needle Injects Radium Into Center of Cancer

DEMONSTRATION of the method of injecting radium by the use of needles was given before a number of the medical profession yesterday by Dr. C. Everett Field at the opening of the new home of the Radium Institute of New York at 323 Riverside Drive.

The institute recently moved from its building at 205 West Seventy-third street to the larger quarters.

Dr. Field, one of the directors of the institute, injected the radium on a needle about an inch long and resembling one of those used on phonographs, to reach the center of the cancerous growth which is the object of the treatment. It is claimed this method prevents much of the radium from being wasted.

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How Mercury Fell to '6 Above at Midnight

THE record of temperature in New York from 3:30 P. M. yesterday, when the highest point for the day was 16, follows:

Hour.	Deg. Above Zero.	Hour.	Deg. Above Zero.
3:30	16	7	10
4	13	8	7
5	12	9	6
6	11	10	5
7	10	11	4
8	10	12	3
9	10	1	2
10	10	2	1
11	10	3	0
12	10	4	0
1	10	5	0
2	10	6	0
3	10	7	0
4	10	8	0
5	10	9	0
6	10	10	0
7	10	11	0
8	10	12	0
9	10	1	0
10	10	2	0
11	10	3	0
12	10	4	0
1	10	5	0
2	10	6	0
3	10	7	0
4	10	8	0
5	10	9	0
6	10	10	0
7	10	11	0
8	10	12	0
9	10	1	0
10	10	2	0
11	10	3	0
12	10	4	0
1	10	5	0
2	10	6	0
3	10	7	0
4	10	8	0
5	10	9	0
6	10	10	0
7	10	11	0
8	10	12	0
9	10	1	0
10	10	2	0
11	10	3	0
12	10	4	0
1	10	5	0
2	10	6	0
3	10	7	0
4	10	8	0
5	10	9	0
6	10	10	0
7	10	11	0
8	10	12	0
9	10	1	0
10	10	2	0
11	10	3	0
12	10	4	0
1	10	5	0
2	10	6	0
3	10	7	0
4	10	8	0
5	10	9	0
6	10	10	0
7	10	11	0
8	10	12	0
9	10	1	0
10	10	2	0
11	10	3	0
12	10	4	0
1	10	5	0
2	10	6	0
3	10	7	0
4	10	8	0
5	10	9	0
6	10	10	0
7	10	11	0
8	10	12	0
9	10	1	0
10	10	2	0
11	10		